Calling Attention to Matters of Public Importance

(i) *re*: Failure of jowar crop in Aland Taluk

Sri D. B. KALMANKAR (Aland).—Sir, I call the attention of the Minister for Revenue to the failure of jawar crop (Rabi) in Aland Taluk and suspension of land revenue, etc.

† Sri H. V. KOUJALGI (Minister for Revenue).—Sir, in response to the Call Attention Notice, I wish to state as follows :—

It has been reported that due to untimely rains during September and October 1968, sowing of Rabi Jawar in Aland Taluk, Gulbarga District, could not be taken up in time. The sowing took place towards the end of October. The growth of Rabi Jowar crop is reported to have been affected due to 'Suli and Jigi' disease in December 1958. The growth of the crop is stunted generally, while it has grown to a height of 2 to 2½ feet in some fields on ridges and hilly lands.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Gulbarga, has also reported that Sugar disease is quite common throughout the district, due to which the growth of Rabi Jawar is stunted and the yield will be less than the the average yield. Measures have baen taken to control the disease.

There is no anxiety at present regarding the availability of foodgrains and fodder in the taluk. The distribution of foodgrains through the Fair Price Shops will be maintained to the extent required.

As regards the suspension of the current Land Revenue, presently there is no demand from the ryots in general. Representations from the Ryots have however been received by the local authorities regarding remission of levy of Jawar and postponement of the collection of overdue instalments of Takavi loans and other dues. Action is being taken by the local authorities to conduct the required crop cutting experiments at the appropriate time in accordance with the provisions of the Mysore Land Revenue Rules. After determining the correct annewari for each village, appropriate action according to the Rules, will be taken in respect of suspension of land revenue and of arrears of loans, if the conditions so warrant.

As regards procurement of Foodgrains, under the Levy Orders, the collection of levy is based on the crop grown on the land, of which there is a surplus available. Each grower has the full opportunity to establish as per the prescribed procedure, that the crop has failed. In that case levy will not be collected as per Scale. Accordingly provision has been made in the Levy Order for reduction in levy in the following types of cases:—

(*a*) If the annewari is below 4 annas ... Total remission

(*b*) If the annewari is between 4 annas and 6 annas ... 50 per cent remission

(*c*) If the annewari is between 6 annas and 8 annas ... 25 per cent remission

(*d*) Remission of 25 per cent of the normal levy as per scale in respect of all 'Rainfed Paddy' lands bearing a rate of land revenue assessment equal to 35 per cent or below of the maximum rate of land revenue assesment for the district.

Further, even if the yield is normal but the grower finds that his net assessed surplus would be lower than the quantum of levy at the prescribed scales, the grower may apply for suitable reduction in levy. In that case, the levy will be limited to his net assessed surplus as determined under the relevant provisions of the Levy Orders.

In order to provide employment to the agricultural labourers and small holdees who may be in need of such employment, scarcity relief works will be continued up to the end of March 1969. Sufficient funds for the purpose have been placed at the disposal of the Block Development Officer, Alland, and the Executive Engineer. Public Works Department. Gulbarga.

(*ii*) *Re*: Incidents in Sirsi during December 1968

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN (Malleswaram).—Sir, I call the attention of the Chief Minister to the incident that took place on 6–12–1968 and subsequent days in Sirsi, North Kanara.

† Sri VEERENDRA PATIL (Chief Minister).—Sir, it is reported that at about 8–30 p.m. on 6–12–1968 in Sirsi Town, when a Driver of the Mysore State Road Transport Corporation was returning home, he noticed near his house some people assaulting a certain person. He tried to interfere, but he was not allowed to do so. A little later, these persons are reported to have gathered in front of his house and started abusing him. When he came out he was assaulted, but his two brothers intervened and rescued him.

The next morning, he went to the Police Station to lodge an oral complaint, and while he was returning from there, he came to know that a scuffle had ensued in which his brothers. his sister and another person had been stabbed and admitted to the hospital with injuries. One of his brothers died on the same day. In this connection police have filed a charge-sheet in the court of the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Sirsi, on 20-12-1968. The case is *sub-judice*.

As a sequel to the stabbing incident, some disturbances took place in the Town and some beedi shops and houses are reported to have been looted. The damage caused to property is estimated to be about Rs 19,342. The police have registered 19 cases in this connection and these cases are under investigation.

L.A.